

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 RSC-01

L-02 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SP-02

H-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8447

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN, APER

SUBJECT: UN FINANCES: US OPPOSES UN PAY INCREASE

REF: (A) USUN 5814 (B) STATE 270600

SUMMARY: OPPOSITION IN FIFTH COMITE TO UN SALARY INCREASE IS RAPIDLY ERODING. WE ARE LOBBYING HARD AND HOPE TO OBTAIN ENOUGH VOTES FOR BLOCKING THIRD IN PLENARY. END SUMMARY

1. DEBATE IN FIFTH COMITE ON UN SALARY INCREASE BEGAN DEC 10. MOST SPEAKERS HAVE FAVORED SIX PERCENT INCREASE AND THEY WERE BOLSTERED BY PERSONAL APPEARANCES OF SYG WALDHEIM DEC 11 AND AMB BAROODY DEC 12. US AND SOV REPS MADE STRONG STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO ANY RISE AND WERE SUPPORTED BY DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. FRENCH REP (NAUDY) HINTED AT THREE AND ONE HALF PERCENT (SEE REF (A)).

2. AS SITUATION APPARENTLY STOOD YESTERDAY EVENING MAJORITY OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE IN FAVOR OF PAY RISE WHILE LDCS WERE SHARPLY DIVIDED ON ISSUE. ARAB STATES HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAUCUSED ON DEC 10 BUT WERE UNABLE TO ARRIVE AT ANY

CONSENSUS. EGYPTIANS AND DEM YEMENIS ARE KNOWN TO OPPOSE ANY INCREASE IN SALARIES WHILE ALGERIANS AND KUWAITIS FAVOR INCREASE. MANY REPRESENTATIVES IN LATIN AMERICA GROUP HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO OPPOSE INCREASE; NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT LA GROUP SEEKS COMPROMISE, PERHAPS ALONG FRENCH LINE. MOST ARTICULATE AFRICAN REPS SEEM TO LEAN TOWARDS SIX PERCENT INCREASE WHILE OTHERS STRESS THEY HAVE OPEN MINDS.

3. IN WEO FIFTH COMITE GROUP DEC 12, ONLY US, BELGIUM, FRANCE, ITALY, PORTUGAL, SPAIN AND TURKEY STATED OPPOSITION TO SIX PERCENT INCREASE. FRANCE AND ITALY CLEARLY INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR COMPROMISE OF THREE OR THREE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT, AND PORTUGAL, SWEDEN, DENMARK, ICELAND AND GREECE INDICATED PROBABLE ACCEPTANCE OF COMPROMISE IF WIDELY SUPPORTED.

4. IN FIFTH COMITE MORNING DEC 12, THREE LEADING MEMBERS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (INDIA, TANZANIA, AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO) CAME OUT STRONGLY FOR SIX PERCENT INCREASE. BAROODY (SAUDI ARABIA) MADE LONG IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR PAY RAISE AND ASKED WHAT WOULD BE COST OF 12-15 PERCENT RISE.

5. COMMENT: OUR LATEST READING IS THAT SIX PERCENT RISE WILL BE APPROVED OVERWHELMINGLY IN FIFTH COMITE. WE ARE LOBBYING HARD AT PRESENT TO ATTEMPT TO INSURE OURSELVES OF AT LEAST BLOCKING THIRD IN PLENARY. COPIES OF US STATEMENT WHICH WAS DELIVERED AFTER WALDHEIM'S STATEMENT WERE DISTRIBUTED AS PRESS RELEASE IN MORNING OF DEC 12. THREAT OF BLOCKING THIRD MAY ENCOURAGE SOME SUPPORTERS OF PAY HIKE TO SHIFT TO SMALLER INCREASE.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TRANSMIT THIS MESSAGE TO OTHER ADDRESSEES AS APPROPRIATE.
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